first, and one of the most peculiar, is distinguished by very deep furrows on all the dorsal plates, by the whole margin being revolute, and by the spots on the sternal plates assuming a radiating instead of a concentric form. The second variety (Plate *b.*) has the vertical plate, the greater part of the neck, the feet and tail, as well as the shell, of a black colour, the anterior part of the neck and the sides of the head only approaching the usual colours of the species. In the third variety (Plate *c.*) the skin is of a brightish and pale green colour, with black lines on the head and neck, and black spots and dots on the rest of the body and limbs, the shell being nearly black. This is the only variety which I have seen in which the vertical plate has been of more than one colour; in all others it is of an uniform black or greenish hue, and very distinct from the rest of the head. The fourth variety I was tempted to consider as a distinct species when I had seen but few specimens; I had even given it the appellation *E. livida**; but I have long been convinced that this was an error. It is of an uniform livid green colour, with the dorsal scuta very slightly furrowed. The sternum is equally without markings, and of a dull greenish yellow colour. A fifth variety, which attains to a very large size, has the dorsal plates of a rufous or reddish brown colour, with darker concentric lines, and the sternum of a light chestnut.

The usual colours of the species are as follow. The head is greenish with numerous black dots; the vertical plate, which is of the form of an elongated lozenge, is either green or black; the eyes are bright yellow, with the pupil and many minute dots black; the neck, the feet, the tail, and the skin of the thighs are all greenish with irregular black dots, most of which are angular; the dorsal plates are of a dull olive, with brown concentric rings, and some other markings of the same colour are occasionally found, especially on the vertebral plates; the sternum is yellowish, with a light brown line running within the margin of each plate, usually formed of irregular elongated spots, though in some they are quite continuous; within this line are various spots and irregular markings of the same colour; and the areola of each plate is in most cases orange, gradually fading off into the light ground colour of the sternum.

* *Vide* Gray, Syn. Rept. p. 27.

The account of the habitat of this species given by the Prince of Musignano, is that it is found in great abundance in the United States from New York as far south as the Floridas, particularly in Maryland and Virginia, as well as in the West Indies. It delights in the neighbourhood of such marshes as are alternately overflowed by salt and fresh water; from which circumstance it is, as I am informed, called the Saltwater Terrapin. Its flesh is esteemed a most delicious food; and my friend Dr. Harlan, of Philadelphia, informs me that it is so much sought for on this account, that it has almost wholly disappeared for a considerable distance around that city. It is considered as particularly nourishing and easy of digestion for invalids.

I have received many of this species from different parts of the United States, and have had during the last winter six of them hibernating at the bottom of a small pond in the neighbourhood of London, the whole of which were kindly sent me about twelve months since by Mr. Monefeldt of Charlestown, South Carolina. They remained in perfect health and activity during the summer and early part of the autumn, seeking their final winter's retreat at the bottom of the water at the latter end of October. Two of these died at the commencement of the spring: the remaining four are now (June 1834) in perfect health. Some individuals which hibernated in the same situation during a former winter, died in the spring; but I doubt not that with care they may be made to bear this climate, and probably may be easily naturalized in the South of Europe. The Prince of Musignano has thus expressed this expectation: "Ho cercato d'introduirle fra noi, e spero tuttora di riuscirvi."

It was in an individual of this species that I ascertained the fact that a perfect new horny plate may be formed under the old one, which it gradually displaces. I found that one of the anterior costal plates was loosening at the edges, and by watching it from time to time, observed that it became more and more detached, until it fell off quite whole, and apparently uninjured. The new plate was exactly like the old one, and in a few days it could not be perceived that any change had taken place.